

FINAL



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2005

PRESENT: LAURA BUONO, CHAIRMAN; HELEEN KURK, SELECTMAN; THOMAS REYNOLDS, JR., SELECTMAN; DOUGLAS COOK, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: ROBERT CHRISTENSEN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Jim Blouin, Lisa Wetherbee, Kimberly Bergeron, Misty Oliphant, Frank Campana, Judy Lamont, Cheryl Levandowski, Kim Gagnon, Brian McDonald, Donna Osborne, Richard Butt, Matt Esenwine, Forrest Esenwine, Virginia Esenwine, Jon Dowst, Jan Synder, David Hunt

6:35 Chairman Laura Petrain called the meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Misty Oliphant requested that the Board place a warrant article on the ballot for \$13,000 to be used to match a grant for the town playground so that it can be voted upon by the taxpayers. Selectman Kurk voiced her support for the playground but voiced that the Board originally gave their support with the thought that no tax dollars would be used.

Ms. Oliphant realized that in the beginning they said they wouldn't ask for funds but they have been promised a \$13,000 trust that must be matched by the town in the amount of \$13,000.

Chairman Buono said that it would be hard to grant this request for a warrant article because in the future they would have to do the same for other requests. There is a process which needs to be followed to place this on the ballot. Selectman Cook stated he would have no problem with placing this on the ballot. He questioned whether it could be placed on this late and done legally. Selectman Cook stated they need to go to the Deliberative Session and see if they can then get it placed on the ballot.

Brian MacDonald informed the Board that the Playground Committee members have been working very hard to raise all the funds needed for the playground and have several more fundraisers planned. Mr. MacDonald questioned if this request for the \$13,000 could be added to the Bolton Field fund. Selectmen Cook recommended that they rename Article 44 therefore the \$13,000 could be requested under this fund. Selectman Reynolds and Chairman Buono recommended that they contact the trustees of the fund. Mr. McDonald requested that this be placed on the warrant article and it would be a reflection that the Board gave the residents of town an opportunity to be heard.

Frank Campana stated the board was presented a proposal that there would be no tax impact with the playground and feels that if it goes on the ballot it would be misleading to the taxpayers. Mr. Campana feels the playground was originally proposed at no cost to the taxpayers and asked the board to stick with that principal.

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Chairman Buono truly feels that the process needs to be followed and at this date it is too late to get it on the ballot. Chairman Buono said that as a Selectman she supported the playground because it wasn't going to cost the taxpayers any money and feels that as a Selectman they should have been given more opportunity to get involved in the whole playground decisions. Chairman Buono let the volunteers know that they do have the support of the Board for the playground but placing this on the ballot at this late time would not properly follow the process and questions the legality.

Forrest Esenwine stated that they have seen projects in the past that were supposed to be one time only and feels that this was supported by the board and it was not supposed to be funded by the town. And feels that there needs to be procedures followed in how these things are presented and originally this was not supposed to have a tax impact. Selectman Cook stated that this is no guarantee and this still has to go before the taxpayers and feels that it should be a separate article so that the taxpayers know exactly what it is.

Jim Blouin feels that the town really needs a playground no questions about it and as a citizen he really would like to see the board let this go on the ballot.

Chairman Buono stated that the issue really is the process and how the playground was proposed to the board.

Ms. Oliphant really feels that they can't let this \$13,000 grant go without a fight and need the \$13,000 in town funds to match this grant.

Selectman Cook moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to strike the word field from Article 44, renaming Article 44 to read Recreational Development and Improvement Fund. Passed 4-0-0.

Selectman Reynolds moved, Selectman Cook seconded to add \$13,000 to Article 44 to total \$30,900. Passed 2-0-2. Selectman Kurk and Chairman Buono voted no.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – To hear public testimony and receive information for the BOS to accept gifts given to Weare Athletic Club (W.A.C.) for Purington and Bolton Fields

Chairman Buono opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Brian MacDonald read the donations as follows:

For Purington Field:

- Lime, dug test pits and use of tractor; donated by Harry Wetherbee
- Over 2000 yards of sand; donated by Mt. William Corp.
- \$1200 for hydro seeding; donated by Weare Athletic club
- \$2200 of loam; donated by Weare Athletic Club
- \$800 of fabric membrane; donated by Weare Athletic Club

For Bolton Field:

- 150 fence protection pads; donated by Weare Athletic Club
- 400' of fencing; donated by Weare Athletic Club

Mr. MacDonald thanked Harry Wetherbee, Chris Bolton, Pappy (not sure of name) and Bob Nelson for all their support and hard work.

Chairman Buono closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

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Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to accept the above listed donations for Purington and Bolton Fields. Passed 4-0-0.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – To hear public testimony and receive information for the BOS to accept gifts given to Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) for Bolton Field and Chase Park

Chairman Buono opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Chairman Buono read the donations:

- Baseball dugouts at Bolton Field; donated by Justin Robichaud
- Lifeguard chair at Chase Park; donated by Dave Harpel

Chairman Buono closed the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Reynolds seconded to accept the baseball dugout and lifeguard chair as listed. Passed 4-0-0.

Selectman Cook feels that Fire and Rescue needs to be funded every year and that trying to take money out of the Capital Reserve Fund only delays the tax impact and said these Capital Reserve Funds need to be funded properly in the future.

Selectmen's Cook and Kurk are both concerned with Article 24 and feel the requested funds are too large. Chairman Buono changed Article 24 to the total of \$329,550 with a balance of \$204,550 to be raised by taxation.

Selectman Cook does not agree with the increase of \$1500 for the Director of Parks and Recs and feels that position should be dictated as funds allow.

Jon Dowst stated that the Finance Committee voted to support Article 24 not to support Article 27. Mr. Dowst recommended to keep Article 24 at \$255,000 and change Article 27 to \$25,000 needs to be raised by taxation.

The Finance Committee feels that the increase in employee benefits is really large and that next year the employees should be sharing the cost of the increase. The Committee knows this is not actionable this year.

The Finance Committee requested a breakdown of the Police Budget to determine how much it would cost to have 24 hour coverage and needs more information before they can support this budget.

The Town Administrator salary is in the default budget and the Finance Committee feels that this should be in the default budget. Chairman Buono feels that the title is interchangeable, but the Finance Committee feels that you changed the responsibilities and the increased the salary and this should be voted upon as a separate warrant article. Chairman Buono stated that in town government the position is the same and the real question is whether it should be in the default budget.

Forrest Esenwine commented on the Town Administrator's position not Mr. Christensen but the position of Town Administrator. Mr. Esenwine questioned if the responsibilities of this position warranted such a large salary increase. Chairman Buono stated that the Board of Selectmen cannot devote the time needed on a daily basis to oversee the Department Heads and this responsibility now lies on the Town. Selectmen Kurk stated that the increase in the Town Administrator's salary was about \$7,500. Mr. Esenwine the dialogue in how we got to this salary increase was lost and voiced his concern that the Board might be giving the Town Administrator too

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much authority. Jon Dowst questioned the process of the salary increase and that it was done in non public session and should have been placed on a warrant article.

Selectman Cook moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to decrease the default budget by \$6,909. Failed 1-0-4. Chairman Buono, Selectman Kurk and Selectman Reynolds voted no.

The Finance Committee needs to see why there is an increase of \$7300 for fuel in the Police Budget. The Finance Committee stated that Officer Ken Cox has returned to the force but yet there is no decrease shown in part time hours or overtime hours with this position being reinstated.

Article #35 was not supported by the Finance Committee. They felt they could wait a year on this issue and that there are too many other pressing issues.

It was determined that there would be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee at 9:00 am before the Deliberative Session.

4. MANIFESTS

Chairman Petrain moved, Selectman Kurk seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectman to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated February 3, 2005. Passed 5-0-0.

Accounts payable	\$89,860.26
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$29,647.79</u>
Total	\$119,508.05

Voids	(\$460.35)
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Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Reynolds seconded, to recommend the Proposed Operating Budget of \$3,763,867.73 and the Default Budget of \$3,646,414.64. Passed 4-0-1. Selectman Cook opposed.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Christensen distributed paperwork for the Boards Signatures.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary